

is quite familiar with, having tasted it many times during his lifetime? Why should he fear what is apparently a permanent condition and state of unification? The point of this book is that what we think we dread above all else is really what we most desire."

We do not know what death is—certainly not in the sense of sentient beings who can experience it, for certainly a fundamental and keystone difference between the examples of unification described and death is that the examples cited, particularly orgasm, are experiences, albeit ineffable; whereas, there is nothing to lead one to conclude that death is an eternal sentient experience. The rest of the points falter around this important distinction.

Much of philosophy struggles with the purpose of life and the purpose of death. The existential approach sees death as evitable and life without answers. With this as a point of departure, I can readily understand the necessity for a comforting explanation of life and particularly its termination. This is the place of Gordon's short book—interesting but incomplete and most fit for brisk reading about Western man's hope that there is substance to the Eastern metaphysical wish for transcending unity and death.

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**UROLOGICAL SURGERY**—Fourth Edition—Austin Ingram Dodson, Jr., M.D., Associate Professor of Urology, Medical College of Virginia; Urologist to St. Elizabeth's Hospital; Urologist to St. Luke's Hospital and McGuire Clinic; Urologist to Crippled Children's Hospital, Richmond, Va. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. (63103), 1970. 617 pages, with 694 illustrations, \$32.50.

This textbook purports to inform urologists of the advances in their field of surgery. In fact it is a large, warmed-over dish of obsolete material to which has been added the spice of some new chapters written by respected and able authors.

The organization of the material into forty-seven chapters is disconcerting. Entire chapters are set aside for such minor topics as "nephroptosis" and "aneurysm of the renal artery," and fully seven chapters to surgery of "the ureter," but only one chapter, next to last, is presented on prostatic surgery. Ominously, the last chapter is devoted to postoperative male incontinence.

Even more disturbing is the presentation as current and acceptable of various procedures which are, at best, historical curiosities and may well be judged by many to be dangerous. Thus in describing nephrectomy, mass ligation of the pedicle is advocated and further "occasionally . . . the clamps may be left on the pedicle and the wound is closed around them" (p. 206). For undescended testis the Bevan operation is recommended, the skeletonizing of the vessels of the cord in the inguinal canal; and that procedure, which unnecessarily risks infarction of the testis, is to be done "after puberty"—which probably eliminates the possibility of spermatogenesis from that testis. The non-surgical measures advocated in most of the chapters are woefully out of date—e.g. there is no mention of penicillamine or allopurinol in stone management, no mention of adrenergic blockade in preparing pheochromocytoma patients for surgery, no mention of antifibrinolytic therapy in prostatic bleeding.

Bright spots are the new chapters on "Use of bowel in urological surgery" and "Urethroplasty for stricture" by J. J. Murphy and "Surgery of bladder carcinoma" by Prout. These are outstanding, although they deserve better illustrations, and are recommended to old and new urologists. But even the strongest spice cannot make this textbook palatable.

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**CURRENT DERMATOLOGIC MANAGEMENT**—Edited by Stuart Mad-din, M.D., Clinical Instructor, Division of Dermatology, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia; Active Staff, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia; Drug Consultant, Terence H. Brown, B.S.P., M.S., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia. C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. (63102), 1970. 330 pages, \$38.75.

This is a book which follows the trend of having one editor and many contributors (176). Some contributing authors are nondermatologists.

The stated aim is to supply practical assistance in the management of skin diseases for dermatologists, pediatricians, general practitioners, internists or any branch of medicine. The subjects are covered by short discussions, mostly involving therapy along with a few current, pertinent references. This aim is accomplished in a readable manner interspersed with notes by the editor.

The text is divided into three parts. The first, *Dermatologic Procedures*, is a short section covering the use of essentially the physical modalities. The editor's cautioning note regarding the danger of using electrosurgery in persons wearing a pacemaker is timely.

Although this book is intended also for the nonspecialist in dermatology, the discussion of "Topical therapy with cytotoxic agents, 5-fluorouracil" can only be evaluated by an expert. This is apparently recognized by the editor using covering notations.

The section on cryotherapy should include a note on a set of variable sized brass applicators which is being marketed. These are used to deliver the effect of liquid nitrogen in a more exacting manner than the usual cotton on a wooden stick.

The second and the main body of this book covers *Therapeutic Management*. The various diseases are covered alphabetically. The texts are short and concise, and each is followed by a few recent key references. If one remembers that every man considers himself an expert in therapy, there are bound to be omissions. This book is meant to be more current in its approach to therapy rather than exhaustive.

The active dermatologic practitioner will recognize that some of the authors are more hospital-oriented in their approach to therapy. This is especially true in the section on bacterial infections. It is difficult for those who have treated penicillin reactions over the years, to recommend this drug except in some limited instances.

Considering what has been written about DDT, it is surprising that this drug would be recommended for pediculosis in the section on anogenital pruritis.

Any future edition should include a section on neurodermatitis. This is not adequately covered in the present edition under atopic dermatitis or among the limited conditions covered in the text under psychocutaneous disorders. A section on burns should be included because the dermatologist is often called upon to treat these, especially in the acute phase. Alopecia mucinosa should be considered along with mycosis fungoides. The difficulty of diagnosing some forms of oral carcinoma in spite of repeated biopsies deserves mention. The deletion of Glanders and Tungiasis would seem to be in order.

The third part, *Drug Index*, is an excellent idea and should be expanded. This portion is a must for anyone who graduated from medical school more than ten years ago. The drug index is edited by a member of the pharmacology department, University of British Columbia. The grouping and interrelationship of the newer drugs is shown through formulas, using chemical and proprietary designations.

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